

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1434

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 2274

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US HU AO UR AG GV ML DM

SUBJECT: US PROTEST OVER USE OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES AS STAGING
POINTS FOR SOVIET/CUBAN AIRLIFT TO ANGOLA

REF: A) STATE 300227

1. CHARGE SEEKING APPOINTMENT TODAY (DECEMBER 22) TO DELIVER US
PROTEST TO MOROU BALDE, SECRETARY GENERAL FOREIGN MINISTRY.
HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT BALDE AND MOST FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS
UNAVAILABLE TODAY, SINCE GOG LED BY PRESIDENT TOURE HIMSELF, IS
GREETING RETURNING GUINEAN FOOTBALL TEAM THAT JUST WON AFRICAN
CHAMPIONSHIP. IF UNABLE DELIVER TODAY, CHARGE HAS FIRM APPOINT-
MENT DECEMBER 23 AT 10:00 A.M.

2. DURING SEVERAL RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH GUINEAN OFFICIALS
AT SOCIAL OCCASIONS (PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL), EMBASSY OFFI-
CERS HAVE HAD FRANK DISCUSSIONS REGARDING ANGOLA, ESPECIALLY
SOVIET INTERVENTION. ASTOUNDINGLY, THESE OFFICIALS FLATLY
DENY THAT SOVIETS ARE STAGING THROUGH CONAKRY. THIS MAY BE
OFFICIAL UCMLLINE, BUT ENTIRE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND UNDOUBTEDLY
MANY GUINEAN OFFICIALS AS WELL WERE ABLE TO SEE SOVIET PLANES
AT CONAKRY AIRPORT DURING AIRLIFT. HOWEVER, THERE ARE NO PLANES
VISIBLE NOW; LAST SOVIET FLIGHT THROUGH CONAKRY WAS DEC 12.

3. GOG IS GIVING MAXIMUM PLAY IN ITS PROPAGANDA
BROADCASTS TO REPORTED US DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO "US INTERVENTION"
IN AFRICA. (SEE CONAKRY 2271). IN ONE OF CONVERSATIONS
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MENTIONED ABOVE, SECRETARY GENERAL OF STATE COMMITTEE TOLD

EMBOFF THAT PRESIDENT TOURE WAS PERSONALLY GRATIFIED BY ACTION OF US SENATE AND BY APPARENTLY MOUNTING OPPOSITION IN AMERICAN PRESS TO US POLICY. GUINEAN SOURCE CLAIMS TO HAVE THIS INFORMATION FROM PERSONAL CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT WHILE GOG MAY BE SENSITIVE TO CHARGE OF GUINEAN-SOVIET COLLUSION (AS EVIDENCED BY INCREDIBLE REFUSAL OF GOG OFFICIALS TO ADMIT A FACT THAT IS EVIDENT TO ALL) EFFECT OF US PROTEST WILL BE SERIOUSLY BLUNTED BY (A) REPORTS OF DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO US POLICY AND (B) BY FACT THAT AIRLIFT NO LONGER IN PROGRESS.

5. EMBASSY REPEATS RECOMMENDATION IN CONAKRY 2232, PARA 4 THAT IF OPPORTUNITY ARISES, DEPT. RAISE SUBJECT OF SOVIET INTERVENTION WITH PRIMIN BEAVOGUI DURING LATTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. MACDONALD

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